

VZCZCXRO5672  
RR RUEHLMC  
DE RUEHUM #0051/01 0300838  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 300838Z JAN 07 ZDS (CORRECTED ADDEE)  
FM AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0709  
INFO RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2599  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5370  
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 1287  
RUCPODC/USDOC WASHDC 1152  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHINGTON DC 0447  
RHMFIUU/HQ EPA WASHINGTON DC 0001  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ULAANBAATAR 000051

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTED ADDEE)

SIPDIS

STATE PASS EPA  
STATE FOR OES/IHA DWILUSZ, EAP/CM, AND EAP/EX  
USAID/W FOR ANE/ESA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [AMGT](#) [AMED](#) [MG](#)

SUBJECT: Indoor Air Pollution in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Ref: A) 06 State 192919, B) 06 ULAANBAATAR 105

ULAANBAATA 00000051 001.3 OF 003

11. SUMMARY: While indoor air pollution (IAP) is certainly a problem in Mongolia, there are no major donor or government initiatives underway at this time to address it as a separate issue. Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, suffers from extreme air pollution from coal smoke emitted from combined heat power facilities that provide central heating and electricity to the city's apartment dwellers, from coal and biomass fuel burning in stoves used in houses and ger (traditional Mongolian tent with wood frame and felt covering), and from the growing number of cars, many of which are poorly maintained. (See ref B.) This air pollution - which is at its worst during the 4-5 month long winters - leads to increased respiratory disease, restricts visibility, and has even begun to cause flight delays. Any initiatives regarding IAP should begin with broader efforts to tackle the problem of air pollution generally. These efforts should focus on increasing the efficiency of existing energy infrastructure, increasing the use of cleaner fuels, and creating incentives for the use of cleaner heating technologies in gers and houses that are not on the central heat and electricity grid. END SUMMARY.

Air pollution and Its Sources

12. There is no distinction between IAP and outdoor AP (OAP) in Mongolia. The media and the official government documents use the general term "air pollution," which has become a major focus of media attention in recent weeks. Ulaanbaatar is located in the Tuul River basin and is surrounded by mountains. Therefore, the city gets little relief from the massive air pollution - largely smoke from the burning of low-grade coal - generated during the winter months. Air pollution in Ulaanbaatar during the winter months exceeds locally permitted levels by five to six times. The pall of smoke is so bad in the mornings and evenings that people who live in ger (traditional Mongolian home) districts on the edge of town cannot even see each other from further than a couplu me|Err."Som%-Bil|bntaknil"fLi'hf3haru(gmn een`yud\$d|e"|o"%Ou hwri8\_" +erEdQQ":0